

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a listing of the claims as pending in the application that replaces all previously filed claim listings:

1-156. (Cancelled)

157. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a computer server system programmed for ~~[[of]]~~ operating a collaborative support system for a plurality of users, comprising:

the computer server system making available a process of ~~[[said]]~~ the computer server system enabling a first subset of the plurality of users of said collaborative support system to post items to be accessible to all of the plurality of users;

the computer server system receiving, from a second subset ~~one or more~~ of the plurality of ~~[[said]]~~ users, first rating data entries corresponding to one or more of the posted items;

the computer server system receiving from a third subset of the plurality of users second rating data entries rating the first rating data entries;

the computer server system deriving third rating data entries rating respective ones of the plurality of users based at least in part on a plurality of the second rating data entries;

the computer server system filtering the posted items, wherein the filtering selects a subset of the posted items to be viewed by a particular user of the system by taking into account the first and third rating data entries; and

the computer server system ~~offering~~ providing filtered viewing of ~~[[said]]~~ the selected subset of the posted items to the particular user, ~~the filtering taking into account the received rating data.~~

158. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein [there is a] the third rating data entries serve as a reputation [level associated with each of said] of respective ones of the plurality of users, ~~and wherein taking into account the received rating data comprises from which the rating data corresponds was received.~~

159. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein there are multiple alternative algorithms for ~~said performing the filtering,~~ and ~~the choice of an~~ a particular one of the multiple alternative algorithms ~~algorithm~~ to be used for a given request for a filtered view may be selected by a ~~participant~~ the particular user.

160. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 159, wherein one or more of the multiple alternative algorithms may themselves be ones of the posted items that are subject to rating by ~~participants~~ the plurality of users.

161. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein the computer server system providing filtered viewing comprises one or more of ranking, applying a cut-off threshold algorithm, and presenting an indication of a rating value.

162. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein the ~~consideration~~ ~~[[of]]~~ third rating data entries that serve as a reputation factors ~~[[is]]~~ are based on a reputation weighting factor to weight a first ~~[[participant's]]~~ user's rating of ~~[[an]]~~ a posted item relative to the ratings of other ~~[[participants]]~~ ones of the plurality of users relating to that posted item based on the reputation of the first ~~[[participant]]~~ user.

163. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 162, wherein a [[the]] degree to which the reputation weighting factor affects the filtered view ~~offered~~ provided to the participant the particular user is controllable by the ~~participant~~ particular user.

164. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~158-162~~, wherein the weightings are based on the respective reputation weighting factors within a domain associated with the respective ones of the posted items ~~item~~.

165. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein the reputation of a first [[participant]] user is based at least in part on one or more of the posted items received from posted by other [[participants]] ones of the plurality users, wherein [[said]] and the posted items received from the other [[participants]] ones of the plurality of users rate one or more of the posted items received from [[said]] the first [[participant]] user.

166. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 165, wherein the ratings of the other ~~participants~~ ones of the plurality users are weighted more heavily for those ~~participants~~ users having a higher reputation within the same domain as the ~~said one or more of the posted items from said posted by the first participant user.~~

167. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein ~~the item~~ a particular one of the posted items being rated is one of an item that is a rating of an item posted by a participant user one of the plurality of users, an item that is a rating of a ~~participant's~~ a reputation of one of the plurality of users, and an item that is any other class of ~~item~~ the posted items.

168. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein a ~~participant's~~ a rating of an item a respective one of the posted items by one of the plurality of users may be associated with a ~~participant~~ user-specified confidence level representing the participant's that user's level of confidence in the that rating.

169. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 168, wherein ~~a participant's~~ the reputation of a respective one of the plurality of users is determined with lower dependence on ratings given lower confidence by that ~~participant~~ user than on ratings given higher confidence by that user.

170. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein the population of ~~participants~~ the plurality of users ~~of the~~ collectively comprise a community that may be divided into multiple sub-communities and the ~~filtered-viewing~~ filtering of the posted items by the computer server system further takes into account the level of the respective ~~participant's~~ user's membership in a specified sub-community.

171. (New) The method of claim 157, further comprising the computer server system providing viewing of the first rating data entries corresponding to one or more of the posted items.

172. (New) The method of claim 171, wherein the computer server system providing viewing of the first rating data entries further comprises the computer server system filtering in such a manner as to take into account the third rating data entries.

173. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the computer server system comprises a plurality of cooperating server computers each of which comprises a respective processor, mass memory, and at least one program, and wherein the computer server system communicates with a plurality of computerized client devices controlled by respective ones of the plurality of users.

174. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the computer server system includes a database, the method further comprising:

the computer server system receiving from the particular user a database query, wherein the database query enables the computer server system to identify a particular subset of items that satisfy the query,

wherein the particular subset of items that satisfy the query comprise the selected subset of the posted items provided by the computer server system for filtered viewing.

175. (New) The method of Claim 157, further comprising:

the computer server system receiving a query from the particular user,

wherein a particular subset of items responsive to the query comprise the selected subset of the posted items provided by the computer server system for filtered viewing.

176. (New) The method of Claim 175, wherein the computer server system providing filtered viewing comprises providing the particular subset of the posted items based at least in part by ranking the particular subset of the posted items in accordance with an algorithm based at least in part upon the rating of each of the particular subset of the posted items.

177. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the plurality of users is an identified user.

178. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the plurality users is an anonymous user.

179. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the first rating data entries are implicit.

180. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the first rating data entries are explicit.

181. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the second rating data entries are implicit.

182. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the second rating data entries are explicit.

183. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the first rating data entries and the second rating data entries are themselves subject to rating by the computer server system.

184. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least two of the first, second and third subsets are overlapping subsets.

185. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least two of the first, second and third subsets are non-overlapping subsets.

186. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least one of the second rating data entries rating the first rating data entries comprise a rating relating to a particular one of the first rating data entries.

187. (New) The method of Claim 171, wherein at least one of the second rating data entries rating the first rating data entries comprise a rating relating to at least a plurality of the first rating data entries received from a single one of the plurality of users.

188. (New) The method of Claim 183, wherein the rating of the first rating data entries and the second rating data entries is performed by the computer server system based upon

a collective rating of the first rating data entries and the second rating data entries by the plurality of users.

189. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein any user is permitted to be a member of any of the first, second, and third subsets of users.

190. (New) The method of Claim 189, wherein the collaborative support system is unmoderated with regard to the actions recited in Claim 157.